

## University of Dayton eCommons

---

News Releases

Marketing and Communications

---

2-18-2002

# UD Comments, Events on John Byrd Jr. Execution Tomorrow

University of Dayton

Follow this and additional works at: [https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news\\_rls](https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls)

---

### Recommended Citation

University of Dayton, "UD Comments, Events on John Byrd Jr. Execution Tomorrow" (2002). *News Releases*. 10122.  
[https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news\\_rls/10122](https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/10122)

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact [frice1@udayton.edu](mailto:frice1@udayton.edu), [mschlangen1@udayton.edu](mailto:mschlangen1@udayton.edu).



Feb. 18, 2002  
Contact: Jim Pickering  
pickering@udayton.edu

---

## NEWS RELEASE

### **FEB. 18-19: UD COMMENTS, EVENTS ON JOHN BYRD JR. EXECUTION TOMORROW**

University of Dayton students, staff and faculty will hold an anti-death-penalty march throughout campus, a prayer vigil in the Immaculate Conception Chapel and drive to Columbus to pray outside a prison during an execution as part of protests against capital punishment.

The state of Ohio is scheduled to execute John Byrd Jr. at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Lucasville State Penitentiary. Byrd is to die by injection for the 1983 murder of Monte Tewksbruy, who was stabbed during a robbery at a suburban Cincinnati convenience store where he worked.

**Monday, Feb. 18**      9 p.m.      A group of UD students, faculty and staff will begin their protest march at the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus and wind through the UD neighborhoods. The march is sponsored by Pax Christi, a student organization dedicated to social justice issues.

**Tuesday, Feb. 19**      6:30 a.m.      A group from UD will head to Columbus to participate in a prayer vigil outside the Lucasville prison. They will depart from Liberty Hall.

9 a.m.      A prayer vigil will be held in the Immaculate Conception Chapel for Byrd and his family.

**NO MORAL RIGHT TO KILL** — "We simply don't have the moral right to take another's life," says Sister Nancy Bramlage, S.C., director of the Center for Social Concern at the University of Dayton. "I believe in the sacredness of human life, even for those who have committed heinous crimes."

Bramlage and other members of the UD community are taking a bus to Columbus on Tuesday morning to hold a prayer vigil outside John Byrd's execution chamber. "We're going to gather to pray for the condemned man and for society. We'll pray that the people of Ohio have a change of heart someday and reverse the state's death penalty law."

For media interviews, contact **Sister Nancy Bramlage, S.C.**, at home (937) 258-3113 or at the Center for Social Concern (937) 229-2524.

- over -

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679  
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax  
www.udayton.edu

**PROFESSOR WITNESSED EXECUTION** — "What strikes me hard is how capital punishment corrupts our criminal justice system," says William Trollinger, an associate professor of history at UD. "There is no retracting the punishment, no going back after we've killed someone."

In this case, that someone is John Byrd Jr., who the state of Ohio plans to execute at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the Lucasville State Penitentiary. Byrd has professed his innocence in killing a Cincinnati convenience store clerk in a 1983 robbery, and an accomplice has confessed to the murder.

"There's a lot of evidence to suggest Byrd didn't do it," Trollinger says. "I'm not saying I know what happened. But I find it despicable that the state is in such a rush to execute the man without knowing whether he actually committed murder. The courts have steamrolled through the objections to put him to death."

Trollinger, who speaks against capital punishment to local groups, has a personal history with capital punishment. In the mid-1980s he began corresponding with a death row inmate and 12 years later was invited by the condemned man to be a witness to his execution.

"If you believe in capital punishment you should at least believe that it should be applied fairly and that safeguards should be implemented to weed out the innocent who sit on death row."

For media interviews, contact **Bill Trollinger** at home (419) 358-0717 or at work (937) 229-2827.